

# Presbyterian *Profiles*

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / AUGUST 2024



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Rev. Cathy Caldwell-Hoop

Senior Pastor

## God is at Work

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to spend a week at the Chautauqua Institute (NY) a couple of weeks ago. After a couple of rainy days, my sister and I woke up to a morning that could only be described as a crisp October day. Everyone we encountered seemed to be in a happy mood, bolstered by this sneak peek into autumn. My sister had to return to miserably hot days in Nashville, so I could not complain.

But that taste of fall, a reminder of the changes ahead... so nice.

Changes...families have been posting photos of the "first day of school," a new year beginning. Those photos bring joy with a little tinge of sadness or nostalgia. We have been experiencing changes here, too, with a new office manager, Lori Lepard, joining our staff, and Paul stepping into the role of Music Director. Lori won't do things the same way Hannah did them, and that's how it should be.

Not long after I had arrived, a member said to me, "We are glad you are here, but we loved our pastor. I know we have to focus on making room in our hearts for you, too." I appreciated the honesty. It was true for me, too. I loved my congregation in Alabama, but I would make room to get to know and love a new congregation.

Similarly, this congregation was blessed by Chuck's leadership (if you did not see the tributes to Chuck, please refer to the previous issue of Profiles), and we already know we can trust in and be thankful for Paul. His excitement in guiding our music ministry will be contagious!

God's Spirit continues to blow through our midst; sometimes that Spirit brings changes. May we look back with gratitude for the wonderful staff members we have known, and may we look forward with joy to the new ways God is at work among us!

Let us step out and feel the Spirit's breath moving among us,

Cathy



Rev. Paul Van Kempen  
Associate Pastor

## Peace Camp Update

We had a Wildly Wonderful week at Peace Camp this year! Our theme for the week was exploring God's wondrous world. We learned songs (*Slugs and Bugs* was the favorite), memorized the theme verse (Psalm 104:24), learned about bees, dissected owl pellets, extracted strawberry DNA, painted with soil, made flower collages, listened to good stories, ate a feast every day, and even got to meet a housefly named Franny who lives in the basement of the church! It was a full week of fun and laughter.

The kids learned so much, but what I hope they remember most is that they are a part of a beautiful system created by God that all works together wonderfully. It is our job to care for creation, from the flies to the rivers, the mountains to the honey bees.

These pictures are just a small sampling of all we did this week! We hope you can join us next year!





Lori Klinesteker  
Children's  
Ministry Leader

## Worship Center: Keeping In Touch

During offering in Worship Center, FPC children share in different ways. Some may sing, dance, pray, give a piece of their heart, coins they have earned, and food collected for those in need in the community. This summer, "our" children have continued using their talents, time, hearts, feet, and hands during Worship. Some highlights: participated in Worship; cleaned and sanitized the infant nursery (toys, books, playsets, and shelves are pristine); cared for our infants – 3 yr. olds by playing and reading with them, keeping them safe, and feeling loved; designed the Peace Camp food request board; participated as campers or youth helpers at Peace Camp; created the recycled paper wildflower seed thank-you notes for volunteers; and more. Kids, you are amazing, unique, and continue to share your Light with All, we are blessed and grateful for you.

Like the rush of wind, families are returning to their busy schedules and routines of school. Good practice might be to find space where we can pause and wonder. Worship Center resumes on September 8 when we will have a brief time together (11:00a – 11:30a) to reconnect with our friends, meet new ones, and be in their space of Worship. The all-generation kick-off picnic will follow. WC celebrants are grateful for your trust in us as we intentionally provide a sacred space for all to "be" within the stories, respond, wonder, and question in a safe place among friends. Beginning September 15, the Education Hour for Youth and WC will be 11:15a – 12:00p.

We invite you to come and be part of the WC experience. You are welcome to be a guest worshiper or may be interested in joining the WC team as an assistant or lead celebrant. The schedule for WC is on a rotating basis according to your availability. Please reach out to me if you have an interest or would like more information.

All are invited and welcome; Christ's Light is shining,

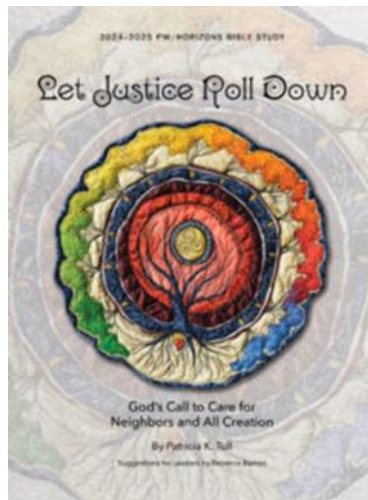
Lori Klinesteker





## Presbyterian Women

As our PW communications person, while saving various messages from PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN at the denominational level, and looking at the art from our new Presbyterian Women Bible study, it made me wonder, “Is this quilting?” Well, no! As I read further into the study book, I found that the nine pieces are not quilts, but individual art generated to draw us into nine Justice Discussions on environment, land, food, water, air quality, climate, economic climate, intergenerational, and sustaining Creation’s Health for all. Good discussions ahead for us this coming year!



Our PW group meets on the second Wednesdays from September through May at 9:30 am. There is coffee and delicious seasonal bites in the Michigan Room. All women of this congregation, and friends, are most welcome. We can always get more chairs!

**Our September 11 meeting will host Pastor Cathy Hoop to provide the opening to our 2024-25 study year.**

**We invite all FPC Holland women to a Christmas Luncheon on December 11. There will be 3 homemade soups, breads, and dessert for \$5. We will gather in the narthex at 11:30am. Sign-up will be available in November.**

We support an international prayer ministry with our Least Coin offerings, and Lake Michigan Presbyterian Women through individual gifts.

Horizons magazine offers us interesting articles that showcase Presbyterians in action if you subscribe. We participate in the PW Thank Offering and Birthday Offering as well. Our own local mission projects are Presbyterian Preschool and Resilience as they focus on the needs of children and women in crisis.

Be aware of the ongoing opportunities we have in this congregation to help support our neighbors and community throughout the year. It is amazing how each individual contribution makes an outpouring of generosity that reaches out, like the story of the abundance of food in Matthew 14:13-21, beginning with one person sharing his lunch.

Janet Magennis

**GET THE LATEST NEWS from PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

We are adding more content on our Facebook page! // Facebook: **FPCHolland PW**

Online: [PresbyterianWomen.org](http://PresbyterianWomen.org)



# Kids' Food Basket

## Kids Food Basket Farm at Ridge Point Church

**Event** // Thursday, September 19, we will have a group workday at Kids' Food Basket Farm from 8:30-10:30am. 10 spots have been reserved for our group. The farm is located at 226 104th Ave., Holland, MI 49423.

How to sign up? Each person attending the shift should use the following link to sign up: <https://vhub.at/fpcsalley>. Click the link, and either create an account or log into an existing account. Once logged in, you will see a calendar showing your group shift. Click the shift and follow the instructions to complete registration.

Please contact Tom Salley with any questions, [salleyt@yahoo.com](mailto:salleyt@yahoo.com)

I would like to say *Thank You* to all members of the congregation who sent me cards during my brother's illness and eventual passing. Your kind words were much appreciated by my entire family.

Peace, Bill Evenson

*thank you*

**Calling all FPC Musicians** // One of the things I love about being the worship director is employing the various gifts of FPC members in our weekly worship. You are all so talented and it is lovely to see you using your gifts to worship God. But I can't highlight your gifts if I don't know what they are!

If you are a musician (of any skill level—all gifts can be used to worship God!), I would love it if you could fill out this brief survey so I can incorporate your gifts in the worship of the church.



FPC Musician Survey

Please scan the QR code for a link to the survey.

## <> Save the Date <>



**Fall kick off potluck** // Join us September 8, for the fall kick off potluck. Immediately following worship, the potluck will take place outside in the triangle area across the street from the church.

Please bring a peanut and nut free dish to share.

Last name beginning with:

A-J: please bring a main dish

K- R: please bring a side dish

S-Z: please bring a dessert

We need volunteers to help set up and clean up. Watch for sign-up sheets in the narthex.

**Adult Education Opportunity** // Beginning Sunday, September 15, you are invited to join us for a study of Christian Nationalism. What is it? What is a Biblical response to this movement? What practical responses can we adopt? We will meet in the Michigan Room at 11:15. Facilitator will be Cathy Hoop.

## <> Session Summary <>

The FPC Session held regular meetings in July and August, spending time discussing *Sailboat Church* by Joan Gray (rethinking mission and practice - rowboat or sailboat?).

During these summer months, we heard reports from our various councils, including updates on property improvements, a joyful week of Peace Camp, the ongoing work of our outreach ministries, and the business council's work in preparing for budgeting and stewardship.

## <> Deacons <>

Deacons invited seniors to enjoy a catered picnic lunch at the Dunton Park main pavilion on August 3. It was a wonderful time of lively conversation and delicious food.



## <> Connect Together <>

### Men's Discussion Group

Meets every other Friday morning at 7:30am in the M&M Cafe. Our next meeting is September 6 discussing the PBS series titled, *Hope in the Water*. We will also meet September 20. Contact Ross Hamlin (616) 399-0509 or Bob Gansen (269) 753-7024 if you have any questions.

### Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club meets at FPC the first Monday of each month at 7pm. Due to the Labor Day holiday we will meet Tuesday, September 3. Our September book for discussion is, *Oath and Honor* by Liz Cheney.

We welcome anyone to join us even though they may not have read the book(s). Our group is always looking for new members. Contact Larry Lynn at [oldrun09@gmail.com](mailto:oldrun09@gmail.com) or 616.617.8944 if you have any questions.

### Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club meets the second Sunday of each month at church at 1pm in the M&M Cafe. Our next meeting is September 8 discussing the book, *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See.

Contact Bev Plagenhoef at [rbplagen@live.com](mailto:rbplagen@live.com) if you have questions

### Common Threads Group

We hope that "Common Threads" reflects the fact that all are welcome. Many of us are crocheting or knitting prayer shawls, but feel free to come and work on other needlework or crafts, or just come for the fellowship! We meet the third Monday of each month from 1-3pm in the Ontario room. Come and go as you are able. We hope you'll join us! Our next meeting is September 23.

<> Happenings Around FPC <>

*Shrimp Boil*



Dave and Jan Zessin hosted this years Shrimp Boil.



<> Happenings Around FPC <>

*Sunday Worship at the Outdoor Discovery Center*

Sunday, August 11 worship at the Outdoor Discovery Center was an intergenerational service where all ages were encouraged to participate.

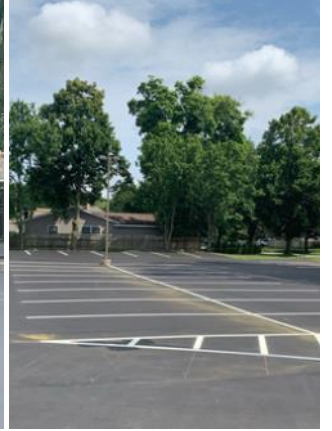


## <> Happenings Around FPC <>



Repaving of the FPC parking lot took place in August.

Thanks to Chris Urbaniak for taking the 'before and after' photos.



A large tree branch came down in Memorial Garden. Tim Richardson cut it up and removed it. He also arranged to have the City of Holland take down the 2 large trees on Central & 28th Street before any more dead branches could come down.



Above: Kids in the M&M Cafe coloring Kids' Food Basket lunch bags.

Left: Blessing of the backpacks before school starts.



first  
presbyterian  
church

659 STATE STREET  
HOLLAND, MI 49423

*worshipping, serving, and living with a fresh  
vision of God's vibrant energy and grace for all.*